

# 2013

ANNUAL REPORT



SOUTH PHOENIX  
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

# Why Early Childhood Matters

**Research shows that 80% of a child's brain is formed by age 3; more than 90% by age 5. Because of this rapid development, what happens to children in the early years lays the foundation for a lifetime.** Research has demonstrated that kids with quality early childhood experiences do better in school. They are more likely to advance into college and successful careers. They also tend to be healthier and demand less from the public welfare system.

On November 7, 2006, Arizonans made a historic decision on behalf of our state's smallest citizens. By majority vote, they made a commitment to all Arizona children 5 and younger: that kids would have the tools they need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

The voters backed that promise with an 80-cent per pack increase on tobacco products, so some reliable funding for early childhood services for our youngest children would be available.

The initiative also created the statewide First Things First Board and the 31 regional partnership councils that share the responsibility of ensuring that these early childhood funds are spent on strategies that will result in improved education and health outcomes for kids 5 and younger.

Not all children have the same needs; and voters designed First Things First to meet the diverse needs of Arizona communities. Decisions about which early education



and health strategies will be funded are made by the 31 regional partnership councils made up of community volunteers. Each regional council member represents a specific segment of the community that has a stake in ensuring that our children grow up to be healthy productive adults, including: parents, tribal representatives, educators, health professionals, business leaders, philanthropists and leaders of faith communities. The regional councils study the challenges faced by children in their communities and the resources that exist to help kids in their area. Because of all these factors, the regional councils know best what their kids need.

**The South Phoenix Region includes the far West Valley's Agua Fria River basin at 122nd Avenue south of Camelback Road and as far east as 48th Street and Baseline Road.**

## Regional Council Members

James Washington, <i>Chair</i>	Yolanda Robinson
Dr. Patricia Merk, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Dr. Lorraine Salas
Riann Balch	Jasmine Sanchez
Kristi Langley-Wells	Jeremy Wood
Elizabeth McNamee	
Jennifer Quillin	

# A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

## Demographics

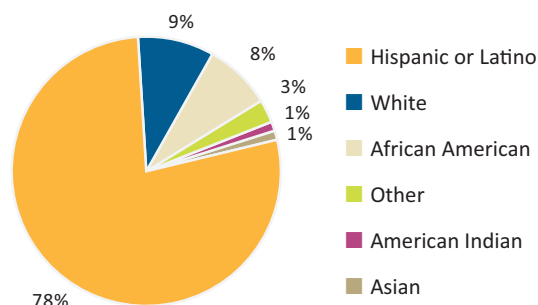
**52,710**

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

**13%**

Percentage of Population Under 6

Ethnic Breakdown of Kids



**35%**

Children Ages Birth Through 5 Living in Poverty

## Education

**67%**

Percentage of 3-4 Year-olds in region who don't go to preschool

**21-42%**

Percent of 3rd grade students not passing AIMS in reading

## Economics

**\$25,757-\$65,778**

(Depending on family composition)

Median Family Income of children under 18 years

**9.6%**

unemployment rate

## Health

**42%**

Percentage of Young Children without Health Insurance

**18%**

Births to Teenage Mothers

**52%**

Children ages 19-35 months with incomplete vaccination schedules

# OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

Research regarding children 5 and younger in the South Phoenix region revealed the need for the following programs to promote optimal development and school readiness:

**Access to Quality Child Care** – Research shows that children exposed to high quality early education are more prepared when they enter kindergarten, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate and go on to college. The region has addressed the need for high quality early learning by funding strategies to improve the quality of child care in the region and expand the skills of early educators working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In addition, the region has funded scholarships that allow more children ages 5 and younger to access early learning programs.



**Family Support** - The region recognizes parents as the first and most important teachers in their child's life, and funds a range of programs to strengthen families. The programs are voluntary and are offered in a variety of settings to best meet the needs of families – from community-based resource centers or training for caregivers interested in learning more about child development to in-home visitation from nurses and other early childhood professionals for families who face multiple challenges.

**Professional Development** - The region funds a variety of professional development opportunities to expand the skills of those working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, including scholarships to increase access to higher education for child care professionals and incentives to keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

**Health** - Quality healthcare is a vital component of any successful early childhood development program. With a visionary approach to health programs and supports across the service continuum, the regional council created the South Phoenix Preventive Health Collaborative. The group consists of more 20 community organizations dedicated to ensuring that all children arrive to school healthy and ready to succeed.

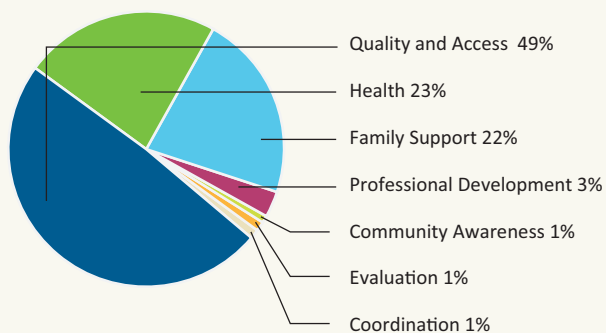
**Community Outreach and Awareness** - Awareness of the importance of early childhood is crucial so that all stakeholders can do their part to support school readiness. The Community Outreach and Awareness strategy provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.

## Financial Report

### EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA – FY2013

Quality Access	\$6,975,576
Health	3,374,989
Family Support	3,222,322
Professional Development	363,405
Coordination	186,386
Evaluation	153,503
Community Awareness	109,110

**TOTAL** **\$14,385,290**





# OUR REGION'S IMPACT

## Child Care Provider is Both Teacher & Student

Although she has her bachelor's degree in education and experience in a third grade classroom, in-home child care provider Johana Hierro knows that learning is different at every age. "The more I immerse myself in learning about early childhood, the more I want to learn!" Johanna said. "The road is endless as time and children evolve."

By partnering with Quality First, Hierro has made quality improvement a priority in her center, and her efforts are paying off. "Our parents know to expect a lot from us" she said, "They have seen how their children are able to take what they've learned beyond our walls."

Jennifer Garcia's 2-year-old daughter attends Hierro's center. "Janessa's language has just exploded!" Jennifer said, remembering her surprise when her daughter used the word "patient" correctly. "It's easy for kids to mimic words, but Janessa really understands the words she uses."

By improving the quality of child care and early learning, kids like Janessa have the tools they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

## Smart Support for Early Educators

When 4-year old Scott's family transitioned him to an in-home child care provider, they hoped the smaller environment and individual attention would help his behavioral challenges, such as lengthy tantrums. Tina, the provider, participates in Smart Support, a First Things First program that helps early education providers respond to children with behavioral challenges.

Tina, her Smart Support mental health consultant, and Scott's caregivers worked together as a team to encourage positive behavior. For example, whenever Scott begins to feel upset, Tina takes his hand and says "let's take a deep breath." Together they both sit and breathe until Scott relaxes.

Three months later, Scott was potty-trained and expressing his wants and needs in complete sentences. "[Before] I felt overwhelmed" Tina said. "Now I feel confident, I'm doing something right!"



**706**

FAMILIES ENJOY STRONGER, MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

**2439**

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ATTENDED VOLUNTARY CLASSES IN COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS ON TOPICS SUCH AS PARENTING SKILLS, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY AND NUTRITION

**3768**

CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF CHILD CARE THROUGH QUALITY FIRST.

**1967**

INFANTS, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO ACCESS EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**432**

CHILD CARE CENTERS RECEIVED CONSULTATION TO BETTER SUPPORT YOUNG KIDS SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**48**

EARLY EDUCATORS PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY-BASED CLASSES TO EXPAND THEIR SKILLS WORKING WITH YOUNG KIDS

# MOVING FORWARD

The South Phoenix Regional Council remains committed to the success of every child in the region. The Regional Council's expectation is to promote and support ongoing coordination, collaboration and leveraging of all available resource to encourage sustained positive system changes on behalf of young children.

The South Phoenix regional council understands that a child's most important developmental years are those leading up to kindergarten; by investing in strategies that impact children across the goal areas of early education, family support, professional development, health and community awareness, the regional council will ensure that children have all the tools they need to start kindergarten ready to succeed!



## Grantees – FY2013

- American Academy of Pediatrics - AZ Chapter
- Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf of University of Arizona
- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Maricopa Integrated Health System
- MCCC - Phoenix College
- Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Pima County Health Department
- Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
- Rio Salado College
- Southwest Human Development
- Tanner Community Development Corp.
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way

### South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

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